



Maine Human Rights Commission

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INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT PA15-0195

April 25, 2017

Matthew Francis (Falmouth)

v.

Amistad (Portland)

I. Summary of Case:

Complainant alleged that Respondent, a place of public accommodation offering services to people with mental illness, discriminated against him on the basis of sex and sexual orientation (gender identity) by subjecting him to a hostile environment and by denying him full and equal access to its services. Respondent denied discrimination and alleged that Complainant was treated the same as other patrons and was allowed full access to its services. The Maine Human Rights Commission Investigator conducted a preliminary investigation, which included a thorough review of the materials submitted by the parties, and an Issues and Resolution Conference. Based on this information, the Investigator recommends that the Commission make a finding that there are reasonable grounds to believe that Respondent discriminated against Complainant by subjecting him to a hostile environment, and no reasonable grounds to believe that Respondent otherwise denied Complainant full and equal access to its services.

II. Jurisdictional Data:

- 1) Date of alleged discrimination: January 9, 2015.
- 2) Date complaint filed with the Maine Human Rights Commission ("Commission"): April 27, 2015.
- 3) Respondent is a place of public accommodation and is subject to the Maine Human Rights Act ("MHRA").
- 4) Complainant is represented by Zack Paakkonen, Esq. Respondent is represented by Richard Moon, Esq.

IV. Development of Facts:

- 1) Complainant provided the following in support of his claims:

Complainant was subjected to a hostile environment due derogatory statements made by a fellow patron ("Patron") when Complainant was attempting to receive services from Respondent. Patron